



## R&D On Demand

**Problem Statement:** Research is important to our community since it builds our knowledge, facilitates efficient learning, and allows us to understand societal issues on a deeper level. Unfortunately, there is a disconnect between practitioners (COSA staff, non-profits) working to address community challenges and local academia who are studying the same challenges. Both practitioners and academics have expressed the need for a centralized “front-door” that facilitates collaboration and knowledge sharing – leading to better research and development (R&D) of innovative solutions to community challenges. Both groups also need better access to real-world experiences and insights from residents.

**Hypothesis:** A centralized “R&D On-Demand” site will 1) provide City staff connection with researchers who have data and/or expertise that provide a deeper understanding of community challenges and can help design innovative solutions to solve them; 2) provide researchers connection to administrative data, strategic plans, and practical insights that build stronger solutions, grant proposals, and advance applied research efforts.

**Objective:** The City of San Antonio R&D League’s mission is to create cross-sector, multi-disciplinary teams that utilize scientific methods and data to investigate new ideas, facilitate evidence-based policymaking, and explore the frontier of innovation for our 1.5 million residents. R&D League will put together a team to create the R&D On-Demand site that will allow COSA departments in the City of San Antonio to put out requests for research on select and match city staff and researchers to solve community challenges together. The site is “on-demand” because we aim to facilitate fast responses to crisis, as we know that is where most leadership has to focus their attention these days. Over time, we hope the platform will facilitate long-range research and development as well.

**Current Progress & Plans:** Based on the R&D on Demand blueprints developed this spring (enclosed), the project seems to be moving steadily towards creating an OnDemand alpha site this summer and a beta prototype in 2022. Next steps:

- Plan user-centered design and platform alpha iterations over the summer
- Decide on tools needed to build site
- Develop a research-survey plan to collect additional data
- Use previously learned user centered design and requirements to build R&D OnDemand prototype website.

### Approach:

- 1) Prototype/Technology: Create OnDemand site, implementing previously learned user requirements and functionalities.
- 2) Experiment/Application: Deploy QA to test the site for bugs, onboard a small group of researchers + city staff members onto site.
- 3) Report: Document bugs, barriers, and improvements to add that users want on the site

### Roles & Responsibilities:

	Internal
<b>CoSA Facilitator</b>	Kate Kinnison (Innovation)
<b>Academic Advisors</b>	TBD (College for Health, Community and Policy, Undergrad) David Akopian (Engineering College) Adolfo Matamoros (Engineering College) Dhireesha Kudithipudi (College of Science, MATRIX AI Consortium) Dr. David Yokum (The Policy Lab @ Brown University)
<b>Najim UTSA Fellows</b>	Asiya Validova (College for Health, Community and Policy, PhD) Mohammad Nadim (College of Engineering, PhD) Tiffany Tran (College of Science, MATRIX AI Consortium, Undergrad)